

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **MARCH 7, 2007**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors	Monroe
	Belden
	Stec
	O'Connor
	Bentley
	Tessier
	Champagne
	VanNess
	Kenny

Others Present:

William Thomas, Chairman
Joan Parsons, Commissioner of
Administrative & Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Attorney
Supervisor Gabriels
Supervisor Geraghty
Supervisor Haskell
Supervisor F. Thomas
Hal Payne, Administrator, Westmount Health
Facility
Todd Lunt, Director, Human Resources
Frank O'Keefe, County Treasurer
Rick Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal
Services
William Lamy, Superintendent, DPW
Robert Phelps, Commissioner, Department of
Social Services
Cameron Tessier, City of Glens Falls
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Monroe called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2007 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Copies of the Finance Agenda were provided to the Committee members, and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Monroe acknowledged a request from Mr. Haskell for an executive session to discuss matters pertaining to the proposed sale of County owned real property.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (h) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:25 a.m. to 10:39 a.m.

Committee reconvened and Mr. Monroe stated no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

Mr. Haskell left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Monroe apprised Item 1 was a request for Transfer of Funds which were attached for committee approval. He noted that supervisory committee approval had been obtained as necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe said Marilyn Van Dyke of the Warren County Historical Society, had been requested to address the Committee to provide a status report of the Warren County History Book.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Van Dyke, who distributed handouts relating to the progress on the development of a Warren County History book, copies of which are on file with the minutes. Ms. Van Dyke reviewed the handouts in detail. She highlighted some progress areas and noted the book was arranged to contain sixteen chapters, with an author for each. She noted that the goal for the book was to have a complete manuscript ready by the end of 2007 at which time the product would go to a layout designer for completion for printing. She added if the time line was met, the book would be published in late 2008.

Mr. Champagne questioned why the progress on the book was moving so slowly. Ms. Van Dyke replied it had taken a few more years than they originally planned. She added that the Historical Society was working on a number of other books that were in progress as well.

Ms. Van Dyke clarified that the funding of \$5,000 that Warren County contributed to the Society each year was divided, in that half (\$2,500) went towards the history book project and the other half (\$2,500) was used for the services that the Society provided.

Mr. Belden asked if the funds were included in the 2007 budget for the Warren County Historical Society and Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services, replied affirmatively.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee requested that Ms. Van Dyke report back to the Finance Committee in three months with another status report of the history book.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to authorize the agreement continuing the contractual relationship with the Warren County Historical Society for production of a history of Warren County book and historical programs for a total amount not to exceed \$5,000. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Returning to the Agenda review, Mr. Monroe expounded Item 3 was a referral from the Airport Committee to amend an existing grant with the Federal Aviation Administration to increase the maximum amount payable to \$370,982.58, an increase of \$5,518, to match the amount expended.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 3 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe stated Item 4 was a referral from the DPW Committee to increase Capital Project H257.9550 280- Padanarum Road Bridge Over NW Bay Brook, in the amount of \$493,000, to include construction costs, with the source of funding to be transferred from A.9550.910- Transfers Capital Projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 4 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe advised Item 5 was a referral from the Health Services Committee to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$350 to reflect the receipt of COLA grant funding from the New York State Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention program.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 5 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe noted Item 6 was a referral from the Mental Health Committee, Office of Community Services, to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,379, to allow 100% State Aid to flow from NYS OASAS to the agency for 2002 COLA.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve Item 6 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe said Item 7 was a referral from the Tourism Committee to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$10,495 to reflect the receipt of revenue from the Consumer Show Brochure Distribution, the Student & Youth Travel Co-op Advertising and the Better Homes & Gardens Co-op Advertising.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to approve Item 7 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe apprised Item 8 was a referral from the Westmount Health Facility and Countryside Adult Home Committee to close Capital Project H225.9550 280- Multi-Model Day Care and cancel the contract with SWBR while continuing to hold re-classed expenses in the amount of \$15,918.74 in a construction in progress asset account (EF.12100 105.00) for future reimbursement purposes, and the remaining funds to be returned to the General Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 8 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Continuing, Mr. Monroe stated Item 9 was a request for 2007 funding for Saga City and Warren County-Glens Falls Sister City Organization, in the amount of \$5,000, which was included in the 2007 Board of Supervisors Budget (A.1010 470).

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 9 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe said Item 10 was a report on expenditures for 2006 from Warren County SPCA which was attached for review. He noted that no action was necessary from the Committee.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Mr. Monroe expounded that Paul Dusek, County Attorney, had requested to address the Committee regarding Items 11A through E. He added Item 11A was regarding the creation of a Public Authority for the Railroad.

Mr. Dusek advised that he and the Chairman of the Board, Mr. W. Thomas, had spoken with State Senator Little with regard to a Public Authority for the Railroad owned by Warren County, as well as the Essex County portion and the portion located in the Town of Hadley. He said that Senator Little was receptive to the idea; however, she

would need a resolution of support from the full Board of Supervisors for each municipality involved, in order to proceed. He noted that the single, most important reason for this was to eliminate the liability of Warren County, as well as to eliminate the taxing problem Warren County had with Saratoga County, which was that the County was being taxed for the portion of the Railroad that was located in Saratoga County yet owned by Warren County.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried by majority vote to authorize Mr. Dusek to draft a Home Rule Request for Legislation and bring it back to the Finance Committee for review, with Mr. Kenny voting in opposition.

Continuing, Mr. Dusek apprised Item 11B was with regard to establishing Capital Project H.276.9550 280- Energy Rehabilitation- Municipal Center, in the amount of \$2,496,750, with the source of funding to be provided by a Capital Lease. He explained this was the energy contract for the Municipal Center, which had been approved by the County Facilities Committee. He further stated approval was also needed for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign NYSEDA documents, which would set the interest rate lower than what would normally be paid in connection with the financing for this project.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Belden to approve the request as outlined above.

Mr. Belden questioned if the funds for this would need to be bonded and Mr. Dusek responded no, it would be done through a lease agreement with M&T Bank, and Siemens Building Technologies would set up the transactions.

Discussion ensued with regard to the savings with this project.

Following discussions, Mr. Monroe called the question and the motion was carried by majority vote to approve the establishing of the Capital Project as outlined above, with Mr. Belden voting in opposition. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Dusek referred to Item 11C which was to amend Resolution No. 400 of 2006 regarding the realignment of Meadowbrook Road. He explained that the original resolution was based upon deeds that had been filed showing ownership of property around Meadowbrook Road that the County needed to purchase. He further stated that an error had been made in the deeds, which he had discovered and notified the attorney's that had done the underlying transaction for the property owners. He noted the deeds had been corrected, therefore Resolution No. 400 of 2006 needed to be

corrected to show that the property owner that the County was purchasing the land from was Schermerhorn Commercial Properties.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the amendment to Resolution No. 400 of 2006 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Item 10D, Mr. Dusek said, was a revision to Resolution No. 802 of 2006 regarding NL Industries purchasing the rail lines. He reminded the Committee that authorization had been given to purchase railroad tracks, north of North Creek in Warren County, totaling approximately five miles of tracks, for an amount of \$205,000. He apprised that the transaction had changed from the original plan. He noted that NL Industries was requesting a \$100,000 deposit that would be non-refundable if the County failed to go through the transaction; however, he added if the Public Authority did not get approved and/or if the County could not obtain APA (Adirondack Park Agency) subdivision approval, then NL Industries would refund the deposit.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Kenny and Mr. Champagne voting in opposition, to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Dusek advised with regard to Item 11E, the issue had been resolved in the Personnel Committee earlier. He noted a resolution was authorized allowing the use of legal services provided by Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes, P.C., on an as-needed basis.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to table Item 11E, as authorization was already obtained in the previous Personnel Committee meeting.

Mr. Monroe noted Item 12 was a Pending Item that needed to be approved by the Committee for the Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. (SPCA) agreement for services for prevention of cruelty to animals which had expired on December 31, 2006.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the agreement with the Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Monroe stated Item 13 was a request for Finance

Committee action which was required on the following items, that were approved by the Personnel Committee: Item Nos. 1, 2A, 2B, 6B and 7.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned items.

Mrs. Parsons said the creation of the RPN position for the Health Services Department, which was not included on the Agenda, was approved at the Personnel Committee and also required approval of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Stec amended his motion to include the approval of the creation of the RPN position in the Health Services Department and Mr. Belden seconded the amended motion. Mr. Monroe called the question and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Monroe expounded there was one more item that needed to be addressed. He explained the Personnel Committee had authorized contracting with MH Net as the EAP Independent Provider for Warren County; however, he stated, a source of funding needed to be determined for three sessions in the amount of \$15,600. Mr. Monroe suggested the funds be transferred from the Contingent Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously that the source of funding for the contract with MH Net be transferred from the Contingent Fund in the amount of \$15,600. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Champagne referred to Item 5A on the Personnel Agenda, and said while he understood it was not a Finance Committee item, the action taken by the Personnel Committee made him very uncomfortable and he felt the issue should be reviewed by the full Board of Supervisors. Mr. VanNess added he agreed with Mr. Champagne.

Mr. Tessier apprised the issue had been thoroughly discussed by the Social Services Committee and it was concerning very important positions. He noted he planned to bring it from the floor before the full Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dusek stated that the board had ultimate authority. He clarified that the Rules of the Board required both Committees to approve, the oversight Committee (Social Services) and the Personnel Committee, a request in order for approval of the full board. He noted that the board could change those rules at any time.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Gabriels, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, requested a joint meeting of the Social Services and Personnel Committees to be held on March 16, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. F. Thomas reminded the Committee members that a copy of the Suffolk County Grand Jury Report on Facilitated Enrollers was mailed to the full Board of Supervisors. He said this report was directly related to the discussion of the positions in the Department of Social Services. He suggested that everyone read that report prior to the joint meeting to better educate themselves before making any decisions.

There being no further business before the committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Belden, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk